

# A FARMER'S TALK TO FARMERS

### The Cause of the High Prices—Railroad Presidents' Opinions and Other Opinions—High Price of Grain Made Beef Production Impossible in New England—How the Local Trade was Killed Out—Who Contributed to the Success of the Packers and Why Old Conditions Cannot be Restored.

(Written Specially for The Bulletin.)

At the risk of being criticized for harping on a much too long string, I want to talk a little more about these high prices. Everybody else is talking about them and everybody seems to have an explanation. Some people have two or three apices. There is room for a little doubt that things cost from a quarter to a half more than they did a few years ago. Whatever difference of opinion there may be as to the cause there is none as to the fact. Prices are going up; we can pay them or go without the goods, just as we please. The sellers are generally maintaining an attitude of lordly indifference as to which we do. We can give up meat and live on beans and ground peas. It is not so cheap as they used to be—but if we're going to eat meat, why there is no alternative but to pay it in exchange for our greenbacks, at about weight for weight.

One big railroad man says it's because the farmers don't know their business and aren't raising as big crops as they used to. He says that something in this. But, do you know, as a practical farmer, when railroad men understand the things that cost them to feel much as I suspect Mr. J. J. Hill would feel if I should set out to teach him the fundamentals of the railroad business, it is right easier to sit on a fence and tell the other fellow how to manage either a farm or a railroad than it is to manage it yourself. I don't know enough about railroading to run a band on a gravel track; but I've forgotten more about real farming than any railroad president in these United States ever knew. So has any other farmer who has been in the job for a long time. We aren't getting out of our farms all the produce and all the profits we might. I think it is better to be sure of it if I heard it from one real farmer than from seven railroad directors.

Another man says it's the tariff. Again, that may have something to do with it. It is not so simple as it seems. I just because Politician Dusenberry says so, however. He doesn't really know any more about it than do—and that's very little. They haven't any tariff up in Manitoba to speak of; certainly not our tariff. That stops at the Dominion line. The tariff is put out in St. Paul has just been comparing prices charged for necessities in Winnipeg, the Capital of Manitoba, with those charged for similar goods in the two United States cities of St. Paul and Detroit. Almost invariably the Canadian prices are higher than those of this side of the line. Butter, for instance, which is sold in the Dominion at 40 cents in St. Paul and 40 cents in St. Paul and 40 cents in Winnipeg; eggs, which vary from 24 to 40 cents in St. Paul and 40 cents in Winnipeg; chickens, which cost from two to six cents a pound more; beef about a cent more; pork from two to six cents more; and so on. The people who are in charge of "the thing" for Winnipegeers to come over to St. Paul to buy clothing, as they can get it cheaper there, while furniture is admitted by the Winnipeg dealers themselves to be "exceptionally high as compared with other cities." Such things as this make me doubtful about finding the high price nigger in the tariff woodpile.

Another man says it's the trusts. And again, there may be something in it. My sympathies are with the "trust-busters" every time, and I should rather like to see the trusts convicted of almost any crime which would result in their abolition. But it isn't only trust-produced stuff which is high and I can't for the life of me see how the sugar or lumber trusts can be held responsible for the simply outrageous price of clover seed.

I don't know what makes all the high prices, nor even most of them, but I think one thing which has helped and is helping to make them high. I'm going to offer it as my individual contribution to the continent-wide controversy.

Twenty-five years ago a good many of the farmers in this vicinity were raising beef and mutton for the market. It was a regular line of business with them and paid fairly well. As farming went in other directions they would raise or buy up stock of the meat-making breeds, fatten them, and sell them to the butcher. Right here comes in the illuminating fact: they used to get, then, about as much per hundred weight for their beef and mutton on the hoof as they can get for it today. It cost them for the grain and labor needed hardly half as much as it costs today. The fatted animal which, twenty-five years ago,

## As Farmer Jolt Sees It

Some farmers have a jolt like an old horse—they are forever getting nowhere and are always on the way.

I don't know what these fellows who are shouting "stick to the farm!" know about it. As the fifth generation of the family I've stuck and am going down the stream of life leaner than any on 'em.

I like to read "How to Do Things" in the papers, but when I undertake to follow the directions it is always an uncertain job.

The chemical stump remover advertised in the papers stamps the farmer who buys it, and that is about all it does do.

The men who teach modern agriculture by mail are not the kind that make two blades of grass grow where there was only one before. They simply show you how to work the ground by working you.

I notice when I read about the acre that turned out \$1,000 worth of onions that it was a great way from home.

Some one has discovered that the seed corn of 1910 is of low vitality. It is not likely that he has any seed corn for sale.

Cy Cymbal is talking about getting his farm work started early this season; and he'll be plowing, as usual, about the first of June.

I've got done trying to raise a crop of grass and a crop of peaches on the same ground. Peaches do not like to be parked.

The only comfort there is in raising turkeys is to have a wife who will run after 'em. As Mrs. Jolt gives notice she has got done stepping quick in that direction, I have got to go out of the business.

The farmer who keeps his stock clean—keeps them healthy. It is the other fellow who calls the veterinarian.

Old Hard Cider says temperance people are all fuss and feathers. It takes fermentation to put color into life.

Some women will marry a man who would make a worrisome partner for a bear.

In the printtime man and horse must work up their muscles slowly together. Some things cannot be done in a hurry.

It is the early pullet that makes the profitable hen. The winter layer bids for big prices.

The farmer who knows so much that is not so is the very man who says farming is a fool's occupation.

The work of finding a hired man in the spring is no ordinary stunt. Hired men nowadays fix all the conditions of the contract and they are most favorable to themselves.

Silas Simms says keeping a farm diary is a good thing for the man who can keep his fingers limber enough to handle a lead pencil.

The farmer's son who can't get money enough to buy a red necktie and a tie-pin will never be content upon the farm.

A Way to Prevent Dust. Editor Social Corner: I've seen lots of rules for sweeping so as not to raise a dust. Here's one I was taught by a neighbor. Always draw the broom towards you, keeping it close to the ground as you sweep. It will prevent all dust, but it will come very near it. But you want a good broom, and a good broom is a good investment.

Uses for Tea-Chest Matting. Editor Social Corner: Pretty abbe-mats are so cheap, nowadays, that it may seem like a waste of time to make them as grandmother did. But some of us women like to make things for the home-need with our own hands. They mean so much more to me than anything I can buy. I've made a tea-chest matting out of an empty tea-chest. It's made of different sizes and shapes. A binding of braid finished the raw edges, and was very easily sewed on. The result is practically nothing, but the time occupied in cutting and binding. This I found a pleasant change from my usual work. I remember that grandmother used, also, to make sun bonnets for herself out of that same matting. Some time when I'm sure nobody's looking, I'm going to try that, too. But I won't promise to show my first attempt to you.

Nothing Queer About It. Editor Social Corner: Mrs. P. H. asks if it isn't queer that the farming people are set off in a class by themselves; no more so than that mill operators and laborers are set off in classes. There is not a more thrifty or useful class than the farm folks, or a class that I like better. We city folks refer to them as our Country Cousins not in a spirit of decision, but with a feeling of regard. Some time when I'm sure nobody's looking, I'm going to try that, too. But I won't promise to show my first attempt to you.

The Helping Husband. Editor Social Corner: What a help in the house the husband is who hangs things up instead of throwing them down. If the husband is orderly in his home habits, the children readily become so. If even one in the family expects mother to pick up and hang up and put away things, it greatly increases her work. A mother who would save herself some of her time by making young children useful. The younger they are taught to do little things for themselves, the more they will do more naturally and joyfully they will take to it. A mother who sings more than she complains cannot raise grouches.

Home Remedies. Editor Social Corner: I will take great pleasure in giving a few hints to those who need some old-fashioned remedies for a tickling cough or sore throat, and will answer any kind of questions asked through your paper for remedies for cattle, fowl, and old-fashioned home remedies. A cough syrup for a cold, ingredients to be bought of your druggist: Pars-coria 1-2 oz., tincture of capsicum 1/2 oz., tincture of tolu 2 oz., mix well together and shake well before using. Dose: A teaspoonful every three hours, in a little water. Remedy for sore throat: Take 1 medium red pepper or 1-4 oz. of common red pepper and 1/2 lb. of brown sugar, hot water 1-4 pt. of good vinegar.

Various Mourning Customs. When mourning for their dead the Israelites neither washed nor anointed themselves. Greeks and Romans fasted. In Europe they wear black, in China white, in Turkey violet and in Ethiopia brown.

## The Bulletin's Social Corner

### THREE PRIZES MONTHLY -- \$2.50 first; \$1.50 second; \$1.00 third. Open to all Eastern Connecticut Women.

Short and gossip letters upon the affairs of Home and Household, Domestic Perplexities and Difficulties, Family Problems, How to Avoid the Annoying Features of Housework, Social Questions, Health Hints and Home Remedies, How to Keep Young and Well, Care of Baby, How to Manage Husband and Children, Animals, Fowls or Birds, Recipes, Kitchen Economy, Furnishings, Home Arts, Flowers, Gardening, Etc., are all eligible topics.

(Write only on one side of paper)

Address SOCIAL CORNER EDITOR, Bulletin Office, Norwich, Conn.

### TO THE WRITERS OF LETTERS:

Among the Social Corner letters this week are two very complimentary to The Bulletin, and we appreciate their kind words; but we hope our contributors will forget to write of the good qualities of The Bulletin in this department and just praise the good contributions of one another. The Social Corner is a place where you can come to house help or elevating social comments of any sort. Let us make this Corner gossip as well as practical. Let "Help One Another" be the motto and let us see if we cannot practice here as well as we can preach.—Editor Social Corner.

### Helps.

Editor Social Corner: I submit help for the Social Corner: Olive oil or safflower poured around the roots of rubber plants or house ferns will delay their growth most noticeably. Sponge Cake—Three eggs, beat light, 1 cup of sugar, 1 teaspoonful cream of tartar, 1-2 cup of baking soda, a little salt, 1-2 cup of hot water, 1 cup of flour; put the water in last.

MRS. L. MAXNARD.

### Mystic.

Editor Social Corner: Among so many delightful subjects, seems as though all may be suited. One of the domestic difficulties and perplexities is the one of the most interesting. I have a tack got a stone or even a knife handle to do duty for a hammer. If a nail, the potato masher is convenient. If you have canned goods of any kind to open, the butcher knife and one more that potato masher. If a cork in the bottle is immovable, a fork or nail to get it out. If no small shovel for ashes, use the dust pan. Another problem, and a very serious one, is the wood in the house. If farmers' wives have walked miles and grown old bringing in wood and water, in a few dollars would bring it into the house and father and the boys could bring in the wood more often than they do.

More than one dear housekeeper can find among these some one thing she has had to contend with. I was reading a short time ago when I made him a birthday gift of a tool chest for kitchen use; and to be her own, not to be loaned to her and the boys. I'm sure my mother would be glad to give such a gift, even if it was not our birthday.

Many fathers and sons do not realize the difficulties that mother and the girls labor under. It is more thoughtfulness than anything else, I think, to care for the head of the house to think and do.

Wishing this corner all kinds of good luck, I am, an interested reader.

ADAM.

### Windham.

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selves. In order to do this their small and narrow must be ours, we must have time to listen to what interests them. If we cannot stop just at the moment, we can make an appointment with the child for a later time, perhaps at bedtime. If we have no time for their small interests, they will sometimes have larger ones that they will not bother us about. Let us keep in our children's confidence and at the moment we can make an appointment with the child for a later time, perhaps at bedtime. If we have no time for their small interests, they will sometimes have larger ones that they will not bother us about. Let us keep in our children's confidence and at the moment we can make an appointment with the child for a later time, perhaps at bedtime. If we have no time for their small interests, they will sometimes have larger ones that they will not bother us about. 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